Rec'd May 3d with Postmark Canyon Ore. April 9 & Washington April 30
Ans'd same day

Camp Harney, Oregon,
April 3rd 1875

Dr George Engelmann
St Louis. Mo.

R. glaberrimus Hook
Ans'd

Sir

I Enclose a plant, a Ranunculus - Will you please tell me the species? - It is in most respects like the R. Abortivus (L.) but the flower is not small, the petals are longer than the calyx & the calyx is not reflexed - It is terrestrial, growing however in wet places (near brooks or on moist parts of hill slopes) - the plant is very small as you see -

This locality is very elevated, about 4600 ft. the climate is extremely dry, only 6 to 12 inches rainfall including melted snow & that mostly in the form of ~~Rain~~ snow & between October & April -

Do you desire plant specimens from here? Hoping I am not troubling you too much to answer this note,

I remain Sir Yr very truly
Dr John H Bartholf U S Army

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Rec May 31
Ans Jun 4

Camp Harney, Oregon.
May 16th 1875

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Dr G Engelmann
St Louis Mo. Dear Sir

Yours of 3rd inst, answering as to the Ranunculus is rec'd - I send to you by this mail quite a number of specimens - I think they will interest you for collections from this region at least must have been few heretofore - Of course I have not access here to comprehensive botanical publications & have no incentive to purchase such for I could not carry them about with me - I will thank you to identify & send me the names of the species I have numbered - As I gather more that I think likely to be interesting I will forward them to you - I believe Capt Bendire also purposes sending you some -

No. 1. V. Beckwithii is a violet, approximating to V. delphini-folia - the flowers have the characteristic violet perfume - two varieties, both purple flowered, but one darker than the other & one variety or species having some of the petals white - the foliage of the latter differs a little from the other two - flowers 10th Apl to 1st May - rocky & clayey dry hillsides -

No. 2. V. Nuttallii ? V. Canina ? L. & Gleh is a yellow Violet - 20th Apl to last of May - loves richer & not so dry ground, in flats & mellow hillsides - scarcely

any odor —

No. 3 & 4. Larkspurs — Delphinium Menziesii throughout May — everywhere. A deep blue & a reddish purple — foliage differing slightly —

No. 5. Ranunculus Flabellimus in good fruit —

No. 6. This Hesperochiron pumilus (? Hesperochiron californicus) small plant is not well presented — I will try to get others better if they be not all gone — They grow a few miles out on the plain in very moist ground & present an extremely beautiful appearance showing their waxy white bell shaped flowers just placed so daintily on the nearly naked black earth — a single flower, for the most part, was nestled in its environment of green leaves — they grew in profusion for a space of several hundred yards — these 2 or 3 specimens are tipped & veined with bluish but that was exceptional — I gathered a good many of the white but from circumstances could not take good care of them — May 1 —

Nos. 7. 8. 9. Phloxes flowers pink, Phlox divaricata rose red, & white with red eye — very hardy, growing everywhere but especially in dry situations — flowering throughout May — the pink flowered has a hoary or gray green foliage, the rose colored, a green foliage —

Nos. 10. Trifolium macrocephalum The clover like plant — this somewhat interests me — the leaves that I pressed a few weeks ago, have faded, perhaps they all will be by the time they reach you — In the fresh state the color of the leaves is that of the red clover, &

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there is a whitish or very pale green band across the middle of each segment of the leaves - It grows in a large patch on excessively hard baked dry stony hillside - began to flower the middle of April - stems somewhat procumbent & will root when covered with earth as one stem sent to you shows -

No. 11 - a beautiful small delicate white star flower - Lithospermum parviflorum 5 petaled - throughout May - moist places - and to be rd

No. 12 - Yellow lily like flower - through April - Everywhere single flowered, very rarely 2 flowered - Fritillaria pudica

No 13 - A Leguminous plant, straw colored flower - Apl & May - Astragalus

There are many leguminous plants here -

No. 14. One of the Solanaceae - 1st May - this was brought to me - I have not been able to get the entire plant - Dodecatheon Meadia

I send the above not in this letter but in another package - I will send soon a wild currant - There is what appears to be a dwarf wild cherry, a Prunus, not yet in flower -

I remain Sr Yrs very truly

John K Bartholf

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Rec July 5th
Ans — 20

Camp Harney, Oregon, June 24th 1875

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Yr letter of 4th last was recd a few days ago — I have a good many plants collected & will forward them to you in several parcels, some by this & some by succeeding mails — I enclose herein some seeds of the Viola Nuttallii, a flower that I think pretty enough to deserve cultivation — it is an abundant bloomer & grows here in situations & soils such as go to show its favorite habitat & requirements are similar to the Pansy & the cultivated English Violet & some of our eastern species —

I will send you sections & pieces of the Juniperus occi-dentalis by this mail —

I send herein a few seeds also of the Phlox that you named as the Linaria — they are abundant bloomers & bear the hardest usage — & they are much inclined to sport making them good flowers for florists — it is rather difficult to get their seeds — the seed pods dropping out of the Calyx as soon as ripe —

I will send by this mail specimens of the Camas, a lily, upon the bulbs of which, the Indians here, (Piutes) feed —

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They, for the most part roast them — I have not Eaten of them, but Officers who have, say they are quite palatable — The plants grow in wet, half marshy a few miles from here, places, & in very great abundance & the Indians come from a distance & gather great quantities & carry away for subsequent use — I believe it is after roasting that they pound the bulb & bake into a sort of bread or cake —

I remain Doctor

Yr. Friend

John H. Barthrolf

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Rec Aug 21st
Ans Sept 7th

Camp Harney, Oregon.
August 8/75

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Dr G Engelmann
St Louis Mo Dear Sir Your Letter
of 20th July is just recd - I send you a
few specimens herein enclosed -

On 20th Ultimo I sent you 2 or 3 sections of
wood of the Juniper & a piece of the heart wood -
By the slice of the wood you will observe that it
splits readily -

I didn't mistake the Violets, Doctor - I sent the
seeds of Nuttall's, the yellow one - I praised it
because its flowers are of good size, in pretty
clusters above the green leaves, it continues long in
bloom & each flower even, remains open for quite
a number of days & its habitat & habits are such
that one must believe it would readily thrive in
the eastern states - The Pansy-like Viola grows
by preference evidently, in situations so dry
& in soils so brick-hard that it might or might not
naturalise in eastern gardens - I did not gather
seeds of this last named partly because all the
plant above ground so quickly dried, withered &
blew away or down after flowering, that, my attention being

taken up with other things for a while, I could n
find where the plants had been even, when I went
to look for the seed pods & seeds —
Please inform me if the letter with the Juniper wood
failed to reach you & I will send other samples —
I looked diligently over many sawed pieces of the
wood, both of limbs & of trunks & did not find any
Examples of the excentric growth you asked concerning
I send herein flowers, stems, leaves, seed & seed pods
of a wild blue flowered Flax that is common here
in some places abundant — An interesting feature of
is that the root is perennial, with annual stems — at
least the root certainly lives 2 years & almost as certainly 3 8. & 1
or 4 or more — I will endeavor to get examples showing
the annual stems come up from the root —
I will call it No. 15. —
No. 16 - The red flowered plant I will be glad to have you
name — It grows on the tops of hills as well as near bo
flowers through June & July - In drying they have lost
somewhat of their very bright light ~~red~~ red color — The flowe
most if not all of them are dotted with white, ~~on the~~ ornamented & ground or sometimes in the throat
the tubular corolla: they do not show it well in the drie
The plant grows 2 - 2½ ft.
No. 17. The Camas that I wrote of, appears to be no
novelty whatever, but to be the Scilla Fraseri, the
Eastern Quamash, Wild Hyacinth, the Scilla esculenta (Ker.)
Camassia Fraseri, (Torrey) - found in prairie states & elsewhere -
No. 13 - The fruit of the Astragalus, the flower of which I sent
you previously -
No 7. Phlox linarifolia - ~~that~~ I sent spⁿ of previously - I
now send white flowers with a piece of the stem - I
esteem highly these Phlox's - not only are they very hardy
bearing ill treatment but the diffeunt varieties especia
the red & pink are much inclined to sport making it
the more desirable for florists —
I will mention now while I think of it that the flora
of this region has not the characteristic that one would
naturally ascribe to it & which you mentioned as being

probably the case, viz, that there would be a peculiar spring flora after that nothing - Certainly the variety is very much less after the end of May but I have been a good deal surprised to see only how much of the herbage keeps green but also that a fair number of new flowers appear in June & July - There are two species of Mallows (Malva) blooming here on the tops of hills as well as by brooks, in July as well as June & I enclose two tiny flowers No. 18. & 19. that did not appear till July & are now blooming in considerable number everywhere - Lupins are abundant & so were other plants till the crickets ate them in July - Those insects have been here this year in vast numbers & did much damage - (I have omitted 18 & 19 for lack of room) -

I send you No. 20. a tulip-like flower growing in mountains forty miles from here, numerous in patches in mellow, half shaded ground - I have no doubt whatever that it has a bulb, though for lack of time did not succeed in digging one up - I am going again over that road & if I can I will dig up root or bulb - (I got & send a bulb & seed vessels) - Is it of the Liliaceae? - I have not had time to study it since gathering it -

No. 21. Still more tulip-like - growing on dry hills, ten miles from here - It has a small onion like bulb - petals or sepals - color pale pinkish lavender - it has changed

in this dried spec. To the violet that you see, because I pressed it in the only thing at hand viz my red leather pocket book without paper —

No. 22 - Yellow flower, grows 70 miles north in a valley - plant 2-3 ft - many blooms - showy -

Nothing will give me more pleasure Doctor than to send you both these specs & in another season whether I am here or at another station I will endeavor to prepare myself with a field book & put up the plants in such order that you can make the most of them & as far as may be, complete the series by adding the seedvessels -

I remain Yours truly
John M Bartholf

Note - I can't find the fruit of the astragalus - perhaps I lost or mislaid it - & the plants out of doors are stripped by the crickets -

I send No. 23. a Heliotrope, I take it to be -

J M B

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Rec Jan 1st
Ans Jan 24

Camp Harney, Oregon,
Dec 16th 1875

Dr Geo Engelmann

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Dear Sir

I send you by this mail in a pasteboard box 13 Camas bulbs – 10 of them I dug from the ground today & the other 3 I have had all summer & fall in the house with their stems as gathered last spring – I was surprised to find that all the bulbs that I met with in the ground had started to grow, & some of them the stems had even reached the surface of the ground – After quite cold weather thro' November we have had these two weeks in December, mild weather, freezing at night & thawing in the day but I had not expected such growth in these plants –

I hope they will reach you in good order – & I will endeavor to get more & send to you – I last fall often bargained with Indians to get them for me, they always promised but never brought them –

Yrs very truly
John H Bartholf

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Rec'd Febr 19
Ans — 24

Camp Harney, Oregon.
Febry 6th 1876

Dr Geo. Engelmann
St Louis Mo

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Dear Doctor — I rec'd a few days ago your letter acknowledging recpt. of the Camas bulbs — I am glad they pleased you — You may remember that some of the flowers of that plant that I sent you last summer were straw colored a pinkish straw colored — I will mention a curious fact — viz, besides finding a good many growing of different shades from nearly white to a pink, I found the change of color to take place in several cut flowering stems that I had standing in water in a flower glass in the house — The change of color actually occurred after the flower stalks were brought home & put in water, from blue a purple as the case might be to the colors mentioned — The cut stalks live for days in water & buds open into flowers — The change mentioned is exceptional & is of course a sport, but it is a curious mode of sporting — It was the later opening flowers that came light colored, not that the first opened changed color —

I shall send to you by this mail some botanical specimens that I gathered last

year but which I was prevented from
forwarding by other occupations –

I send flowers & leaves of a Prunus – Wild Cherry.
B Astragalus filipes Torr.
No. 24 – Please name it – Cerasus demissa Nutt

No. 25 – a crucifera if I am not mistaken Erysimum pumilum Nutt

No. 26 – a Compositae – very numerous – Blepharipappus Scaber Hook

No. 27 – } S. Balsamifera
No. 28 – } Two species of Malva Geranium carolinianum

No. 29 – a Potentilla – I think, I could not get
Virginia Leptosepala
the fruit – tried diligently – Crickets destroyed
& No. plants that I had carefully guarded –
29½ There are 2 species here & I sent – P. gracilis var

No. 30 – a yellow flower – I did not get a presence
the plant it seems – Oenothera

No. 31 – Equisetum? hyemale

No. 32 – Garlic? Allium acuminatum ?

No. 33 – a Phlox different from the linarifolia ~~that I~~
cespitosa Nutt, Torr & Gray
previously sent –

No. 13 – The Astragalus filipes Torr
such as sent last summer – a spec.
in fruit –

I have a good many more specs of last year –
Some not well pressed & some are good – but the above will do for
this time –
I will make it a point to get you the Viola
Beckwithii this spring – living plants & seeds –

No 34. a Salvia? grows abundantly in moist places - Pastillein pallida, glabra minuta, depilata
No. 35 - 2 specimens - Senecio stellato dep
Besides my professional work, I give what time I can spare to hunting (after same birds) for which I have developed considerable enthusiasm this being the first place in my life I ever had an opportunity or time to hunt I want to make the most of it - I shall nevertheless gather plants but I will not have or much time to study them -
No. 36. Another Astragalus? no fruit
The Prunus, No 24, had no fruit last year, a late frost destroying all last spring - I purposed setting fruit to accompany the flowers & leaves but there was none - Capt. Bendire has sent to you long ago, stems and a rooted plant of this shrub but I believe not the leaves & flowers - No. 37. This diminutive plant grows in myriads on the hillsides - single sp. 1 inch - Pentstemon like, but annual by not more?

Yours truly
John H Barthlolf

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Rec'd April 22d
Answ'd " 12th

Camp Harney, Oregon
Apl 11th 1876

Dr Sir Engelmann
Dear Sir

I send to you
by this mail three pack-
-ages in pasteboard boxes
containing several of the Viola
Beckwithii - I hope they
will reach you alive -
It is a heavy strain on
them being in flower & leaf -
I will endeavor to gather
seed of them when ripe -

Yrs truly
John H Barthol

Capt Bendire
I believe is sending you one
or more living plants of Violet by
this mail also so there is an
additional chance of some
living - B.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Rec'd May 20
Answ'd by

Camp Harney, Oregon,
Apl 26 1876

were only barely alive – I send you herein some more dried spec^ns thinking you might like some more – I have replanted several plants into my door yard, so that I will be able, if I remain another year at this Post, to take them from the ground at a season when they are dormant & they can then be successfully sent to distant points by mail – I transplanted some of them with this view last spring but the crickets got into the garden & ate them clean, as they did also those growing wild, so that I could not get seed either – This year I have the plants in cold frames & will save them from the destroyers by tin around the frame –

The Cerasus demissa (Nutt.) grows here to a height of 4 to 5 ft – I want to gather when the season

arrives, the flower fruit & leaves of a wild currant &
a wild goozeberry growing hereabouts —

I presume the colors of these violets, like those of
the cultivated Pansey, fade & even change greatly
in time after pressing & drying —

The Phlox caespitosa (Nutt.) which I did not find in
bloom till June last year I find already this year
but perhaps it was accidental, I did not see it
earlier last year — all I got or saw last year
were white, All, except one white flowering plant, thus far
this spring are a pale lilac —

I will send you spec^ns of a rather showy yellow
flowering bulb & also the bulb of same — No. 39.
please name it —

The flowers are for the most part a week or two
later in blooming this year than the last —

Those of the V. Beckw. that have the lower petals
purple have the leaves a shade darker green

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than the other —

To illustrate how the habits of plants are modified by circumstances I will mention that those of the Beckwith Violet that grow on a hillside facing east & south & where there is considerable of soil, brown & mellow, were in bloom two weeks earlier than those on a hillside facing the same directions as the first named & no more than four hundred yard away, but where the soil is a good deal more compact & clayey & is scanty among the small broken stones —

If I do not go on to the Centennial Exhibition I shall probably make a considerable collection this year & even if I do so I will do something at collecting, aiming to get living plants or their seeds for propagation —

Please tell me Doctor whether you have seen the Sensitive Brier, Schrankia Uncinata, growing. I suppose you have — I think its habit extremely curious. It does not grow here but in the southern states, as you know —

Yrs truly
John H Barthlolf

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Acc'd Aug 19th Camp Harney. Oregon

June 2/76

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Doctor — I will mention what I think I have not ^ said before, that the Camas here grows in a rich black alluvial ^ earth, on the flat plain a little way from the mouth of this Cañon & in what is really a marsh in the spring. The plants are in fact (this spring at least & I believe every spring) from two to six inches under water in Apl & the first part of May — In the middle of May this year there was one to three inches of water on their ground through which their leaves & flower stalks protruded — At the present time their ground is very wet but without water on the surface & they have just begun, i.e. four or five days ago, to open their blossoms — There are plots of many

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

acres in extent, occupied entirely by this plant and a very handsome sight it is — This ground receives the overflow of the waters of the brook or creek running out of this cañon & this brook is in the spring a rushing torrent of cold water from the melting snows in the mountains just beyond us — Of course the water is warmed by the sun a good deal where it lies nearly still and shallow on the Camas ground —

I mention this somewhat in detail that you may know what suits the plant here & also that you may compare it with the habits & habitat of the allied species there which I suppose does not grow in so wet places — I will add that I have seen a few scattered plants in a brook valley above here & where the ground was

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not nearly so wet & their leaves &
flower stalks were much shorter
though the flowers themselves
were of the average size, or nearly
so -

I am watching the seedvessels of
the Viola Beckw. - They are a very
long time in ripening their seeds -

I will send spns of a Pomea that
is extremely fragrant - I did not
see it last year & do not know
its fruit - It is a low-branching
shrub, 3 - 5 ft high, on high sides -
is thornless - profusely flowering -
I have seen but four plants -
The mosquitoes are so <u>excessively</u>
numerous this year that it a
torment to man & beast to go
out —

I did not pack the Violets in
damp moss because I have not
seen any moss within a hundred
miles of here - I do not say, Doctor,

that there is n't any in that distance but only that I have not seen any - I will send you 3 or 4 bulbs of the Camas bearing white flowers - that is very nearly white, just a tinge of lemon color - I gathered them while in bloom of course, but I know by last years Experience that they will grow, though they are not in so good condition of course as if matured after flowering but than I could not have found them -

I remain Doctor

Yr truly

John H Bartholf

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

P. S. Doctor - I Enclose a few seeds of the Viola Brackenridii from a pod just opened - You will notice their relatively large size & thin light color - They are white when fresh - The seed pod segments contract forcibly as do those of the Pansy & throw the seed to a considerable distance -
There will be time to
Set young plants from
these seeds yet this season - J H B

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